

anarchist weekly

Freedom

5p

Volume 35 No. 1

5 January, 1974

ANARCHISTS DEMAND POWER CUT!



IN THIS ISSUE

TRADE UNION PERSECUTION

--BRITAIN.....PAGE TWO

--SPAIN.....PAGE THREE

JUDICIOUS

ASSASSINATION.....PAGE FOUR

BOOK REVIEWS.....PAGE FIVE

NEWS, LETTERS &c.

VIOLENT, ARROGANT AND VICIOUS JUSTICE

THE WORDS "violent, arrogant, and vicious" used by Mr. Justice Mais to describe Dennis Warren, a building worker, when he sentenced him to three years' imprisonment should be applied to the sentences he imposed on the three building workers found "guilty" of conspiracy.

Three were found "guilty" of three charges of conspiring to intimidate workers, unlawful assembly and fighting and making an affray. Dennis Warren got three years, Eric Tomlinson two, and John Jones got nine months. Three others, John Carpenter, Desmond Francis O'Shea and John Eifyn Llywarch got nine months sentences suspended for two years, for unlawful assembly.

These sentences and the use of the catch-all conspiracy charges will have serious implications for future industrial disputes. The use of such an old charge (1875) shows how seriously the authorities view picketing. For it has to be admitted that without the flying pickets during the building workers' strike of 1972 they would never have gained the important £6 a week increase just prior to the government's wage freeze.

These sentences are the sort of class justice we can expect from the authorities when they feel their power threatened by the militancy of the working class. When conflict is not present or at least not openly so, the kid glove is used; however the mailed fist soon appears when the ruling class is faced with mass action.

Both the miners' and the building workers' strikes of 1972 saw the use of flying-pickets and the mass picketing of disputed coal depots and sites. Such action on this scale was condemned as 'unlawful' but the laws are there to protect the power and property of the ruling class and not those who have only their labour power to sell.

Another aspect of the Shrewsbury trial which indicates how the climate is changing in this country was how certain members of the jury reacted to the Judge's sentences. The foreman called out "disgraceful" and he and another member of the jury went over to shake the hands of Mr. Carpenter and Mr. O'Shea. It is small wonder that Robert Mark, chief of Metropolitan Police, has questioned the use of the traditional jury system.

Or is it that now that jury service includes a wider section of the population the authorities cannot rely on them to convict as they did in the past?

The prosecution of pickets and trade unions, using the Industrial Relations Act, has brought politics into the Courts. It has shown that the "law and order" that we are all supposed to respect and obey is the "law and order" of the authorities and has no benefits for working people. There are no divisions between the courts, politics and the police, for they apply the repression on all those who oppose the existing "order" to make them (and intimidate others) to conform. As militancy and the desire for change grow, so will the repression of the State.

It is obvious that all those who took an active part in the 1972 building strike are also "guilty of conspiracy". Every meeting of strikers to arrange the next day's sites to be picketed are as "guilty" as the three in the Shrewsbury trial. But as with the conspiracy trial of the six members of the Committee of 100 in 1961 the authorities only pick on leading members of any group. Nothing can be done to prevent this but when it happens they should not be forgotten but given every support.

P.T.

There has been published by CIRA in Lausanne, Switzerland Introduction a l'Histoire du Mouvement Libertaire au Portugal by Carlos da Fonseca (available from Freedom Bookshop 25p, post 4p). We hope to review it later. There has also been produced by 'O Clarao' (84B Whitechapel High Street) a leaflet on the assassination of Carrera Blanco and its implications for the Iberian Peninsula.

Three High Court judges ruled that policemen have no right to direct drivers to leave the road and go into an area where a highway census is being taken. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court quashed a decision by magistrates who found a motorist solicitor guilty of failing to comply with a signal given by a police constable in the execution of his duty.



BOOKSHOP OPEN Tues-Fri 2-6 p.m.
Thursday to 8.30 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Any book not in stock but in print can be supplied. Please add postage as in brackets.

- *The Ego and His Own, Max Stirner (paper) £1.50 (19p)
- The War After the War, John Maclean £0.20 (4p)
- Michael Bakunin - Sel. Writings ed. by Arthur Lehning £2.25 (10p)
- *Post-Scarcity Anarchism, Murray Bookchin £1.60 (12p)
- *The Political Philosophy of Bakunin, ed. by Gregor P. Maximoff £1.75 (19p)
- *The Complete Works of Gerrard Winstanley, ed. by George H. Sabine £6.00 (28p)
- *William Godwin, Elton E. Smith & Esther G. Smith £3.75 (12p)
- What Rough Beast? Alex Comfort, with intro. by Colin Ward £0.15 (4p)
- *Rebel America : The Story of Social Revolt in the United States, Lillian Symes and Travers Clement £1.75 (19p)
- Marx, Proudhon and European Socialism, J. Hampden Jackson £0.75 (9p)
- The Communards of Paris 1871 ed. Stewart Edwards £1.35 (10p)
- The Anarchists in the Russian Revolution, ed. Paul Avrich £1.35 (10p)
- Tolstoy : The Discovery of Peace, Ronald V. Sampson £3.50 (19p)
- *International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses £1.50 (9p)
- *The Kronstadt Uprising - Ida Mett, with intro. by Murray Bookchin £0.60 (6p)
- *Anarchism : Old & New, Gerald Runkle £1.60 (12p)

BARGAIN BASEMENT : Message of a Wise Kabouter, Roel van Duyn on P. Kropotkin (published at £1.75) £0.15 (6p)

Housmans World Peace Diary 1974 double page per week, 64pp International Directory of Peace Organisations £0.50 (4p)

Walt Whitman/Anarchik Calendar 1974.10p (3p). Trade terms bulk

The first issue of FREEDOM - Oct. 1886 - photocopy. Price "at least" 20p including post.

PLEASE SEND FOOLSCAP SAE (9"x 4") if you would like full booklist

**

The Reverend Andrew Hallidie Smith of Alresford said in his Sunday sermon, "If militants persist in fomenting strikes I believe, against all my instincts, that they should be jailed, and if necessary, executed." He was preaching to a congregation of less than ten.

FREEDOM PRESS

84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET

LONDON E1 Phone 01-247 9249

Aldgate East underground station
Whitechapel Art Gallery exit and
turn right - Angel Alley next to
Wimpy Bar.

Lessons of the Spanish Revolution

V. Richards cloth £1.50 \$4.00
paper £0.75 \$2.00
post 15p

A B C of Anarchism, Alexander

Berkman 25p post 4p
US 75c post free

About Anarchism, What Anarchists

Believe, How Anarchists Differ..
Nicolas Walter 12½p post 3p
US 40c post free

Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism

Rudolf Rocker 20p post 4p
US 65c post free

The State : Its Historic Role

P. Kropotkin 20p post 4p
US 65c post free

Other pamphlets; Selections from
'FREEDOM' 1954-64; Back issues
ANARCHY 1961-70 - list available
on request.

PRESS FUND

Contributions 13 - 28 December

MINNEAPOLIS: F.H. £2.05; CHICAGO:
J.K. £3; CLEVELAND Ohio: T.H. £2;
NEW YORK: N.M. 16p; EXMOUTH:
A.B.H. 18p; LONDON E1: L.T.R.
£1; BANGOR, N.I.: J.T. £5;
ABINGDON: M.B. 63p; NEW LONDON,
N.C.: J.S. £2; LONDON W.1.: M.P.
£1.75; LONDON W.4: R.D.W. £2.20;
NEW YORK: P.A. £2.02

TOTAL £21.99

Prev. acknowledged £1149.72

TOTAL for 1973 £1171.71

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1974 -----

WHEN SENDING YOUR RENEWAL
PLEASE REMEMBER THE INCREASE
IN POSTAGES. RATES ARE NOW:-

Inland, & Surface Mail Abroad

One year £3.25 \$8.10
Six months £1.62½ \$4.05
Three months 85p \$2.10

Airmail

Europe 1 year £4.00
N.Africa & M.E. 1 year £4.25
The Americas 1 year \$13.00
India, Africa &c. 1 yr £4.75
Australasia,
Japan &c. 1 yr £5.25
(six months pro rate)

2 copies £5.85 (\$14.00) pr.yr.

BULK: 10 copies 40p

---AND PLEASE RENEW SOON if
your subscription has expired

TRADE UNION PERSECUTION IN SPAIN

SUPPORT THE SPANISH RESISTANCE!

THE BOMB ATTACK in Madrid which
killed Luis Carrero Blanco, the
Spanish Prime Minister, has dra-
matically drawn attention to the
continuing resistance to the dic-
tatorship in Spain. Although
there are others to take his
place we can rejoice at the pas-
sing of a man who was responsible
for the imprisonment, torture
and death of those who struggled
for freedom in Spain. Carrero
Blanco was known as a fierce op-
ponent of any moves towards "lib-
eralisation" of the regime. His
assassination has incensed the
Falangist party and the so-called
Guerillas of Christ the King who
are demanding the blood of the
Left and the "liberals".

Responsibility for the bomb
attack has been claimed by ETA,
the Basque separatist movement,
and it is likely that it was
carried out by an independent
activist group within the organ-
isation. However, whatever the
truth may be the regime had al-
ready earmarked six well-known
ETA militants to accuse of the
act. Two days after the at-
tack the regime announced that
it had "discovered" that the 6
Basques were responsible. One
of those named was Pedro Perez
Beotegui who was jailed for a
year in Britain in 1969 after a
petrol-bomb attack on the Span-
ish Embassy in London. Two other
men named by the regime,
José Abaitua Gomeza and Juan
Eizaguirre Santiesteban, are re-
ported to have been across the
border in France at St. Jean de
Luz for some time. The laughed
as their photographs were dis-
played on Spanish TV and they
denied responsibility for the
attack.

Appropriately, on the day that
Carrero Blanco was killed the
trial was due to open of 10 men
charged with organising the Com-
isiones Obreras, the illegal
trade union movement controlled
by the Communist Party*. The CP
has repeatedly denounced the
resistance as "acts of terrorism"
and it had hoped that the long-
awaited (but never arrived)
"liberalisation" of the regime
would allow it to operate openly
and thus extend its power. The
opportunism of the CP knows no
limit and some Communist sources
have even suggested that the
assassination of Blanco was the
work of agents provocateurs in-
tended to provoke a fascist
backlash against them. The acti-
vities of the brutal thugs of the
Guerillas of Christ the King in
breaking up peaceful demonstra-
tions by workers and students

shows that the fascists are al-
ready on the rampage and that
the necessity is for resistance
not appeasement.

The much talked-about "libera-
lisation" of the regime has
merely been window-dressing in
order to facilitate Spain's en-
try into the EEC. At the funer-
al of Carrero which was a care-
fully stage-managed demonstra-
tion in favour of the regime,
the British Government was rep-
resented by John Davies (former
head of the Confederation of
British Industry) who marched
along surrounded by Falangists
shouting fascist slogans. It is
essential that a campaign is
mounted to denounce the direct
and indirect support given to
the Spanish dictators by the
British Government (and other
"democratic" or "socialist" gov-
ernments), and also to expose
the real terrorists in Spain.

Despite the fact that it has
been denounced by the Communists,
and ignored or misrepresented by
the capitalist press, the Resis-
tance has maintained its armed
opposition to the regime since
the end of the Civil War in 1939.
As the fascists go on the ramp-
age sworn to kill the men and
women who have dared to oppose
the regime the Resistance needs
all the support we can muster.
Please send donations to the
Spanish Resistance Fund, c/o
T.P. & P.T., FREEDOM (84B
Whitechapel High Street,
London, E.1.) Terry Phillips.

*These workers were sentenced to
a total of 161 years' jail. The
heaviest sentence - 20½ years -
was given to Eduardo Saborido.
Marcelino Camacho, one of the
founders of the Comisiones Ob-
reras, received 20 years.

The lowest sentence was 12 yrs.

STOP PRESS

AS WE GO TO PRESS THE NEWS IS
BROADCAST THAT FOUR MEN WHO
ORGANISED THE PRESS CONFERENCE
AT WHICH FOUR UNIDENTIFIED MEN
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
KILLING, HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY
THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES. AN
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP
THE EXTRADITION OF ANY PEOPLE
DEMANDED BY SPAIN IS VITAL.

**

The plea of seven Chilean stu-
dents for political asylum in
Britain was rejected by the Home
Secretary. They refused to
present themselves for deporta-
tion and have all gone 'under-
ground'.

JUDICIOUS ASSASSINATION

THE LATE Wilfred Scawen Blunt was reputedly about to send a donation to Russian exiled Social Revolutionaries in the 1890s when he read that the Grand Duke Cyril had been assassinated. Immediately he increased the amount of the cheque.

In the same way one felt that there was something particularly apposite in the assassination of Admiral Carrera Blanco, the Prime Minister of Spain, on 20th December. The Spanish regime is certainly a case of 'despotism tempered by dynamite'.

With peculiarly Latin susceptibility he was killed by Basque nationalists, by means of a land-mine detonated under his car, after he had attended Mass. Thus the dilemma of religious assassins was resolved. (Hamlet, it will be recalled, had the same problem regarding Claudius, his stepfather.)

It was erroneously claimed that this was the first assassination of a European political leader since that of Dolfuss, the Austrian Chancellor (on July 25, 1934), for in fact King Alexander of Yugoslavia and French Foreign Minister Barthou were assassinated on 9 October 1934. Neither of these was an 'individual act' in the old tradition of assassination; both were right-wing in inspiration and execution and were undoubtedly committed under Hitler's instructions. Press comments generally omit the wartime assassinations of Heydrich and the (providential) assassination of Admiral Darlan. Assassination as an instrument of national policy is not unknown.

The well-planned assassination of Blanco causes one to marvel at the survival of General Franco and one echoes the saying of Michel Cioran, "Tyrants are always assassinated too late, that is their great excuse". It is possible that many attempts (such as that provisioned by Stuart Christie) were intercepted by the police and the news of them suppressed; but certainly the assassination of the despotic Franco at an earlier stage would have changed the sad course of Spanish history. Now, it is superogatory and the assassination of his successor is a sufficient warning to, and sufficient disorganization of plans of, the Spanish rulers. The well-planned killing of the too-religious, too-punctual Admiral has cautionary value.

Also it is always possible that with the power-struggle going on beneath the surface, a blind eye could be cast on preparations for and the actual elimination of the Admiral. Franco has right-wing enemies too.

Assassination of tyrants has long been considered a heroic and worthy deed. William Tell and Brutus both achieved fame by such an act (real or imaginary). With the advent of universal suffrage and democratic forms of society such assassinations become injudicious, unnecessary and useless. During war, even law-abiding citizens may approve of the assassination of statesmen on the other side. In fact, such judicial processes as may take place after wars have some resemblance to legalised lynching on the basis of woe to the vanquished.

Such assassinations as do take place are almost always the individual actions of some poor crazed creature acting on a delusion or an imagined grievance. Often of course, it is possible to construct a conspiracy theory but the classical concept of the extermination of a tyrant is very rare. Too often, the assassination is by presumed right-wing forces of some liberal, progressive or humanitarian leader who is barring the way to right-wing ambitions or concepts.

It is then possible to give two-and-a-half cheers to the Spanish Basques for their killing of Admiral Blanco for the assassination was deserved, selective and judicious.

This distinguishes it from the casual slaughters of Black September, the I.R.A. and other seekers after political power. It has been pointed out by Albert Camus that the Russian terrorists of the nineteenth century were still governed by humanitarian impulses in spite of their programme of assassinations. Camus relates the case of Kaliayev who was deputed to throw a bomb at the Grand Duke Serge; when about to hurl his bomb Kaliayev discovered that the Grand Duke was accompanied by the Duchess and two children, her nephew and niece, and he went away, and killed the Duke two days later when he was alone. Camus relates that Savinkov, another Social Revolutionary escaping from prison decided with another comrade that, if soldiers recognized them, they would shoot themselves rather than the soldiers... "If it's an officer, shoot."

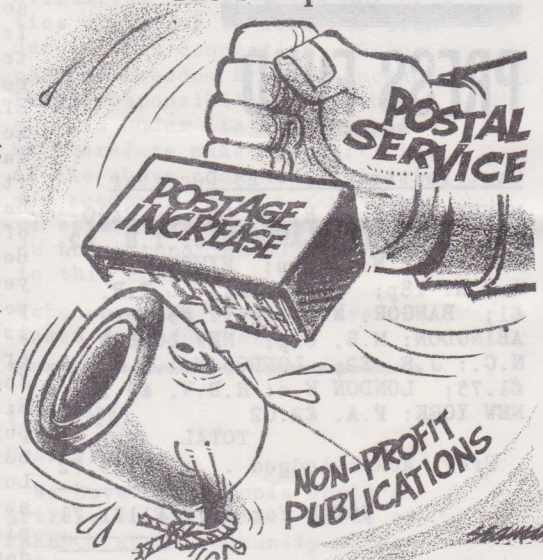
Edward Hyams in his commendable book, Killing No Murder, states, "Assassination...should be used as the vote should ideally be used, that is bearing in mind only the public good and regardless of personal interest". The futile obscurity of the (presumed) I.R.A. parcel bombs not only fails to enlighten exactly what is being done and

why, but completely alienates those in whose interests the whole campaign is being waged. The humanitarian values which, to a great extent, lie behind all attempts at social change are completely lost and discarded in mere 'terrorism', which ultimately becomes terror for the sake of terror and attracts to its cause the psychopath and the seeker after power by terror.

It is an anarchist tenet that the State rules by terror and violence. De Maupassant pointed out that it was not to be wondered at that the citizen now and then takes over the powers of life and death over governments and their representatives. But one should not lose sight of the fact that assassination is a method to be used judiciously and in extreme situations only.

Jack Robinson.

The Stamp Act



SOVIET SHEPHERDS

The few friends who gathered at the Soviet Embassy on Sunday 20 December to "celebrate" Vladimir Bukovsky's birthday were mostly show-biz people. Harold Pinter tried to hand in a letter which was refused. A comrade who was there tells us that the spotlighted occasion was when about a dozen children came out of the Embassy and showed a lively interest in the posters written in Russian. They were hastily shepherded on by their accompanying adults, all but covering their eyes while driving them forward.

Documenting the Commune

The Communards of Paris, 1871.
Edited by Stewart Edwards.
Thames & Hudson. £2.25 (paper-
back £1.35).

The first book in Heinz Lubasz's 'Documents of Revolution' series was Paul Avrich's collection on The Anarchists in the Russian Revolution (reviewed in FREEDOM on May 19, 1973). The second is Stewart Edwards's collection on The Communards of Paris. Two years ago Edwards produced The Paris Commune, the newest and fullest general history of the episode in English (reviewed in FREEDOM on April 1, 1972), and the new book is in effect a companion volume. It gathers from contemporary sources 66 passages translated by Jean McNeil and 39 pictures chosen by Alla Weaver to illustrate one of the most vivid events in revolutionary history. The obvious comparison is with Eugene Schulkind's collection in the 'Writings of the Left' series, The Paris Commune of 1871 (also reviewed in FREEDOM on April 1, 1972), but that was much more concerned with how the left saw the Commune from 1871 onwards; this book is concerned to document the Commune itself, and it is certainly the most useful source of primary materials for anyone who cannot read French.

Edwards has contributed a 30-page introduction giving the basic facts, with frequent reference to the documents, and each of the eleven sections of documents is prefaced by a commentary. The book ends with a glossary of names, a brief bibliography, a chronology, and an index. There is nothing very exciting in the editorial apparatus, but it is clear and useful. The point of view taken is one of general left-wing sympathy, free from the usual Marxist sectarianism, and at least aware of the particular perspective offered by an anarchist interpretation -- though the single quotation from Kropotkin is attributed to an imaginary French book called "Actes et Paroles" (instead of Paroles d'un Révolté) and comes from an essay which has been available in English for eighty years; while Bakunin and the Reclus brothers are only mentioned in passing, and Louise Michel is not mentioned at all.

N.W.

Reviews Useful and Useless

THERE ARE several new series of pamphlets offering reprints of considerable interest but of variable and sometimes dubious value.

Both the first two Rising Free Reprints will interest anarchists -- Informal Elites or the Tyranny of Structurelessness (4) and Anarchism in the May Movement, France '68 -- but neither of them is really necessary. The former consists of a text by Jo Freeman, first published in the United States in 1970, arguing against the cult of structureless groups in the women's liberation movement; it has already been reprinted in Britain twice during the last couple of years, by Agitprop and again by Leeds Women's ORA -- Rising Free acknowledge only the American publication. The latter consists of two interviews with the Cohn-Bendit brothers, first published in France in 1968 and in Britain in 1969, when they were included in Anarchy 99; they have already been reprinted in the United States by Srafpint, using the same translation (and adding some new mistakes) but not acknowledging the source -- Rising Free, using the same translation again (and following all the mistakes), acknowledges Srafpint but not Anarchy. These reprints are cheap but badly produced and not much use to anyone who keeps up with libertarian literature.

Two of the first four Spokesman Offprints will interest anarchists -- Alexandra Kolontai: Women's Liberation and Revolutionary Love (15p) and The Debate on Anarchism (25p). The former consists of two articles by Sheila Rowbotham, published in the Spokesman in 1970; they have never been reprinted before, but they have been rather outdated by more recent work, especially by Sheila Rowbotham herself. The latter consists of two articles by Noam Chomsky and Eric Hobsbawm, also published in the Spokesman in 1970; they had both appeared before then, and they have both been reprinted many times since then as pamphlets and in books. Anyway these offprints are not really reprints or even offprints, but pages torn out of old issues of the Spokesman and stapled together to make badly produced but expensive pamphlets.

PAGE 5

Incitement to Disaffection?

On 22nd September Pat Arrowsmith of the British Withdrawal of Troops from N. Ireland campaign, was arrested while distributing leaflets at Warminster. This followed her acquittal at Colchester on August 28 on a charge of breach of the peace for giving out the same leaflet. At Warminster she was charged under the same Public Order Act, but before she appeared in court the Director of Public Prosecutions decided to prosecute under the much more serious charge of Incitement to Disaffection of the Forces.

This despite the fact that her solicitor received a letter from the D.P.P. before the Colchester prosecution, saying that no charge of incitement to disaffection was to be brought.

Pat Arrowsmith is to appear in court on January 8th. It will cost money to defend this case and bring witnesses to court, etc., and help is needed immediately. Send it to The Pat Arrowsmith Defence Committee, 23 Harvest Road, London, N.W.6.

By contrast the first five Pluto Press Reprints in Labour History will all interest anarchists (or rather, syndicalists), and they are all excellently edited and produced -- The Workers' Committee by J. T. Murphy, What a Compulsory 8 Hour Working Day Means to the Workers by Tom Mann, Direct Action by William Gallacher and J. R. Campbell, The Miners' Next Step by the Unofficial Reform Committee, and How the Miners are Robbed by John Wheatley (20p each). These reprints rescue important and inaccessible texts in the most efficient and effective way.

Similarly The War After the War (20p), which is a reprint of John Maclean's 1918 pamphlet by Socialist Reproduction (who were previously responsible for a useful series of reprints of Wilhelm Reich's early writings) with a long introduction by Steve Vahrmann, is really excellent value. There are two new books on Maclean marking the fiftieth anniversary of his death, by Nan Milton and John Broom, but even in paperback they cost £2 or £1.75; whereas this pamphlet contains a convenient account of the career of the Scottish revolutionary together with one of his most important writings. The production is not perfect, but otherwise this is exactly how the job should be done.

N.W.

LETTERS

STOKE NEWINGTON

FIVE

Dear Freedom,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Stoke Newington Five Welfare Committee. As you may recall, this Committee mainly comprises relatives and friends of the five people in prison, Hilary Creek, Anna Mendleson, John Barker, Jim Greenfield and Jake Prescott. As matters have turned out, we have not taken upon ourselves a political function, but have simply supplied books, newspapers and such personal possessions as are permitted to these five young prisoners.

The fact is, although I am sure there is a reservoir of good will towards the Stoke Newington Five, we are very short of money, and because of the imposition of harsh ten year sentences, despite the Jury's recommendation of mercy, our responsibilities are on a long term basis. As matters stand at this moment, all five have embarked on courses of study, ranging from G.C.E. 'O' Level to extra mural university or Open University courses. I must emphasise that despite vague hints and gross misrepresentations in the press, none of their parents or relatives can in any way be considered rich.

I am writing to you on what is after all the anniversary of their committal; after Jake, Jim and John have spent a year as Category A prisoners - that is top security prisoners subject to many restrictions; after Hilary has been out of prison for treatment for anorexia nervosa and has now sadly been returned to Holloway; after Anna has continued to suffer from the condition which afflicted her during her trial. I am writing to you after one year of such personal ordeals, knowing that they are going to continue for some considerable time. I am appealing to you and, through you, to your friends and acquaintances in the hope that between us we can do more and better for the Stoke Newington Five in the coming year than has been possible so far.

They need a lot of things to keep them going, and we have made up our minds to provide them with whatever they want. I promise you that every penny donated is spent on their behalf one way or another. We are not a big organisation, in fact we are very small. The only real expense we have as a committee is postage. So please,

if you can, send us a cheque or sign a bankers order. I am quite sure there are a lot of calls on your money, but please remember the Stoke Newington Five - a lot of people who should have remembered have sadly forgotten.

The Secretary,
Stoke Newington Five Welfare
Committee,
54 Harcombe Road, London N.16.

ROCKER

Dear Comrades,

Were it not for your introduction you would have earned the warmest praise for republishing Rudolf Rocker's masterful essay, Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism. Your beautifully produced pamphlet, published on the hundredth anniversary of his birth, would have been a fitting tribute to his memory. We regret, however, that neither in spirit nor in content is there the remotest resemblance between the text and the unsigned publishers' introduction.

Your introduction, a clumsy attempt to downgrade Rocker, consists largely of base personal insinuations and outright slander against Rocker and his comrades of the Jewish anarchist movement, including the repetition of vicious personal attacks (dating back 35 years) because of disagreement with Rocker on the attitude of anarchists towards the fascist threat in World War II.

Statements implying that Rocker fostered "the cult of personality"; allusions to the "old man's boastings"; that he wrote in a "patronising way" about his relations with the Jewish anarchists in London's East End; hinting that in America Rocker, "surrounded by wealthy sycophants" (mostly Jewish*) was a parasite because he did not like Malatesta "reject patronage in principle" - all the these and similar allegations make one wonder why FREEDOM PRESS went to the trouble of publishing the pamphlet at all.

Contrary to your contention that Rocker "enjoyed an exaggerated reputation in the anarchist movement", his moral stature and his voluminous writings, translated into many languages, long ago assured him of a well-earned place among the most dedicated and gifted exponents of anarchist theory and practice. His reputation will undoubtedly be further enhanced when his works are adequately translated into English.

We would, like Rocker a generation ago, have preferred to ignore your diatribe as unworthy of reply. But its inclusion in your edition of Rocker's pamph-

let is now public property. We cannot therefore allow your slanders to go unanswered. May we suggest that you will in future (to quote your own words) remember that "anarchism is concerned with ideas and action by the people, and not personalities".

Sam Dolgoff
Esther Dolgoff
Paul Avrich
Valerio Isca

FREEDOM editors comment:

Necessities of printing schedule, holidays and the "3-day week" have precluded our appending any reply from the pen of the writer of the introduction. Our own view is that, if it were felt to be necessary, a just assessment of the degree and effect of the "cult of personality" would fall somewhere between the iconoclasm of the introduction to our pamphlet and the adulation of Rocker's circle of comrades, and that the value of his theories is independent of both. The matter of anarchists' attitudes in state wars is not a matter of personal disagreement but of fundamental anarchist principle as regards militarism and we think our critics are wrong to refer to slander in this connection. Being part of Freedom Press we acknowledge responsibility for what appears under its imprint and we therefore make the criticism of the above comrades public to our readers. By the same token of collective responsibility we do not append individual names to this comment.

*the words in brackets are not taken from our text.

UHURU

Dear Freedom,

We have read Dennis Gould's article in the latest issue of FREEDOM about community-cafes and we are in the process of setting up such a place in Oxford. It is called UHURU and we have been operating as a handicraft shop for the last 3 months. We used the name Uhuru - the Swahili word for freedom - because we want to combine an information centre for the Third World with one for the local East Oxford community.

We sell, at a low mark-up, products from Workers' Cooperatives in the Third World, as far as is yet possible, and those made locally. If anyone needs an outlet for their own crafts please contact us. Also if anyone knows of non-exploitative sources for handicrafts in the Third World could they get in touch with us. As far as the cafe is concerned we need technical advice and information and ideas.

Sue (Hodgson) & Paul (Morris)
Uhuru, 35/7 Cowley Road,
Oxford.

IN BRIEF

The will of Sir John Ellerman, the shipping magnate, disclosed an estate of £43,000,000 on which £1,900,000 duty is to be paid. He died in South Africa to where he retired.

It was disclosed that food rationing coupons are ready, having been prepared ten years ago for a similar state of emergency. Also the power to use troops stems from the 1964 Emergency Powers Act.

An unarmed Ulster Protestant was shot dead by British troops during a fracas outside a Shankhill Road public house.

Having joined the Ulster executive, the S.D.L.P. called off the rent and rates strike in Northern Ireland which was to continue until the last internee was released. A party statement said that the people of N.Ireland must now support the new institutions of Government and it would be 'inconsistent' to continue the rents strike. Internment has not ended.

The father of Derek Bentley, hanged twenty-one years ago for his presence at the murder of a policeman, has been refused permission to put an inscription on his son's grave. The inscription would read: 'He died on the 28th of January 1953, a victim of British justice'. The 16-year old boy present with Bentley at the shooting and accused of firing the shot (although doubt has been cast on this) has long been released (he was too young to hang) and is now a respectable citizen. Mr. Bentley's solicitor, Benedict Birnberg, is opposing Croydon Council's refusal.

The Social Science Research Council is financing an investigation into political violence in England, Scotland and Wales since 1947. The 2½-year project is being carried out by Dr. Richard Clutterbuck, a lecturer at Exeter University. According to the Guardian he said that this country had a 'quite staggering record' in this field (almost staggering enough to lose him the research job.) No one had been killed in a riot or demonstration in England, Scotland or Wales since 1919, and during the past half century there had been only about 20 victims of political murder by shooting or bombing. Most of these people had been killed by the I.R.A. But he thought it was certain that violence, or attempted violence (how's that?) would increase in the future, even though the vast majority of people were against it. This

view is shared by the police (Uh-huh!)

A husband launched a series of petrol bombing attacks in a small village in an attempt to win back his wife.

Regis Debray, former friend and confidante of Che Guevara, has now become personal assistant to Francois Mitterand, French Socialist deputy.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has decided to sell prestige council flats to wealthy tenants at a discount with subsidised mortgages of 10% for up to sixty years. One of the prospective buyers is BBC radio personality Jack de Manio. The Department of the Environment refused to become involved in the controversy. "This," said the department's spokesman, "is a moral question upon which we prefer not to comment."

A widow lost a claim against Ponting holiday camps for compensation for the death of her husband in a holiday camp swimming pool. She claimed that the pool was so dirty that the body was unnoticed for an hour, and not enough lifeguards were

BEWARE OF PITY

WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM LEEDS ORA THE INFORMATION THAT A CON-MAN WHO HAS ALREADY MADE TWO ROUNDS OF CALLS ON ANARCHISTS IS AGAIN IN THIS COUNTRY.

LAST TIME HE POSED AS A REFUGEE FROM ANGOLA : THIS TIME AS A CHILEAN (but if he reads this he'll no doubt think of something else). HE IS ABOUT 5' 9", BLUE-EYED, HAIR WAS DYED BLACK AND HE IS POSSIBLY SCANDINAVIAN. IS FLUENT IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES AND IS PLAUSIBLE INITIALLY. HE ASKS FOR MONEY TO GET TO HIS NEXT PORT OF CALL, AND FOR SANCTUARY MEANWHILE. IF YOU DECIDE TO HELP HIM, KNOW YOU ARE BEING CONNED, AND SPARE YOUR FRIENDS FROM TAKING HIM ON HIS NEXT STAGE, UNLESS THEY KNOW TOO.

on duty. The claim was dismissed because the husband had signed the usual form indemnifying the company against any accident, even if the company were at fault.

A security firm in London has offered its patrolling services to business-men to "operate a check-up service" on other firms' security operations.

A firm offering insurance services offers insurance against "Business Interruption due to 'Bomb Scare Evacuation'" with a

minimum premium of £10 and major risk area Oxford Street, Regent Street and Piccadilly, London. All remaining areas of U.K. (excepting Northern Ireland!) £4 per unit. It's an ill bomb that blows nobody any good!

The Supreme Court in Dublin ruled that married couples who take contraceptives into the Republic of Ireland are not breaking the law. The sale of contraceptives is banned in the 'Free' State. Mr. Justice Walsh said, "It is a matter exclusively for the husband and wife to decide how many children they wish to have. It would be quite outside the competence of the State to dictate or prescribe the number of children which they might have or should have."

Quotation for the New Year (and the crises) from, of all things, the Sunday Telegraph:

"THERE IS a great change coming, bound to come. The whole money arrangement will undergo a change: what, I don't know. The whole industrial system will undergo a change. Work will be different and pay will be different. The owning of property will be different. Class will be different, and human relations will be modified and perhaps simplified.

"If we are intelligent, alert and undaunted, then life will be much better, more generous, more spontaneous, more vital, less basely materialistic. If we fall into a state of funk, impotence and persecution, then things may be very much worse than they are now. It is up to us. It is up to men to be men. While men are courageous and willing to change, nothing terribly bad can happen."

(D. H. Lawrence from Assorted Articles)

--used as a Christmas card text by, of all people, Montague Norman, governor of the Bank of England, in the 'thirties.

A giant false nose worn by a gunman who tried to hold up a post office in Chard, France made the cashier burst into uncontrollable laughter, which so unnerved the gunman that he ran out empty-handed.

Anarchist Classics Series

ABC OF ANARCHISM

—Alexander Berkman

Biographical Notes and Reprint of Freedom Press Edition with a new Introduction by Peter E. Newell,

25p (post 4p)

LESSONS OF THE SPANISH REVOLUTION by Vernon Richards

This is not a reprint of the work with the same title published by FREEDOM PRESS in 1953. It is a new and considerably expanded version which the author prepared for an Italian edition published in 1957, and recently published in Paris in a Spanish translation.

Additional chapters deal with such important topics as the Militarization of the Militias, the Cult of the Organisation and of Personalities, the Rank and File's Responsibility.

As well as a Select Bibliography, the author has contributed a 20-page Bibliographical Postscript in which he discusses the most important works that have appeared on the subject in the past twelve years.

240 pages 8½ x 5½

cloth edition £1.50 [p.p. 15p]
paperboards £0.75 [p.p. 15p]

Order your copy now from Freedom Press

Big Brother, the worker

Express Staff Reporter

TEN YEARS from now the outlook will be grim for anyone foolish enough to be an employer—the bosses of today were warned yes terday.

Unlike George Orwell's prophecy for 1984, with one Big Brother ruling over us all, the dire new forecast issued in the journal of Bradford Chamber of Commerce is that there will be millions of Big Brothers—all of them workers.

And they are going to make the poor old bosses plead in vain for mercy. That's to say, if they can be bothered to turn up for work at all.

Because, according to the journal, the so-called workers will have voted themselves nine months holiday a year.

Beaches

Most of their time will be spent "loolling about on sun-drenched beaches or supping beer indefinitely in pubs."

Bosses, managers and employers will be "huddled in some dungeon, working excessively long hours, underfed, cold and maltreated."

The prediction of the downfall of Britain's bosses was written by Bradford business man Mr. Michael Mallett, joint editor of the journal.

And for those who doubt his word, he says: "Stop and examine your newspaper today and see whether this trend, established firmly enough to provide grounds for such forecasts, still applies."

"You will find that far from power being concentrated among the allegedly intelligent elite, these appear to be on the defensive against the allegedly stupid underlings who do all the dirty work."

The hours of workers, says the journal, will be "reduced to the minimal... their holidays extended to the almost unending."

They will exert power over their "mentally superior managers" by the blackmail of withdrawing essential services from them from time to time.

Author Mr. Mallett said yesterday: "This column is usually written with a humorous intent, but with basic accuracy. It is based on my own thoughts—and those of business men I speak to."

LETTER

Dear Editors,

As a perpetual bather "in the warm waters of Stirnerism" I cannot find much reason to be disturbed by the recent militarist coup in Chile, despite Sam Cohen's lachrymose letter (FREE-DOM 22.12.73). A left-wing regime is replaced by a right-wing regime. What is so unusual about that? As John Bishop used to say, it is a "mere change of pogrom".

Why a professed anarchist should work himself up into a lather about such a commonplace is beyond me. What does he expect in the political power game? To adapt Gertrude Stein: a government is a government is a government, and although there are differences between one government and another, they are differences of degree, not of kind. All governments are the enemies of individuality, particularly "anarchist individuality".

Mr. Cohen's desire to be the "Marxist conscience" is no doubt commendable if one wants to keep the Marxist religion going. I would have thought, however, that anarchists would take an opposite view and regard Marxism as yet another spook that has been used to bring the individual to heel in the authoritarian menagerie.

Sincerely,
S. E. Parker

London W.2.

GIOVANNI MARINI DEFENCE COMMITTEE
Paolo Braschi, C.P. 4263,
20100 MILAN, Italy
The RELEASE MARTIN SOSTRE COMMITTEE (U.K. group) 83A Haverstock Hill, London NW3 (tel. 586 2038). Trying to raise a £5,000 Fighting Fund to assist appeals and combat his ill-treatment in prison. Donations to above address.

Published by Freedom Press,
London, E.1. Printed by
Vineyard Press, Colchester.

C

ontact

Contact Column is for making contact! Use is free, but donations towards typesetting costs are welcome

MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, London Co-op Conference Sunday 27 Jan. at New Ambassadors Htl. Upper Woburn Place. Tickets from Educ. Sec. John Atkinson 129 Seven Sisters Rd. N7 7QG

ANARCHIST CABARET starts Jan. 7. Rehearsals & auditions during January. For appt. contact John Olday 01-888 5541

MOTHER with child (3), present living situation intolerable, seeks accom. with friendly people in North or East London. Also possible baby-sitting 2 nights a week so that I can continue attending college. Write Rose, 81 Woodberry Grove, London, N.4.

CRISIS CARDS for all-purpose greetings or abuse, 10p each. Designed by Peter Ford, 22 Royal Road, Ramsgate, Kent.

PEACE PLEDGE UNION needs experienced responsible pacifist to administer its London HQ & national activities. Apply soon as possible to Chairman, P.P.U., 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1

ANARCHIST WOMEN'S GROUP meets Mondays. Phone 883 2457 for details

CORBY ANARCHISTS. Discussion mtg. first Friday every month at 7 Cresswell Walk, 7.30 p.m.

LIVERPOOL ASA contact May Stone C.32 Summerfield, Tower Hill, Kirkby, near Liverpool.

LONDON ASA phone 226 0817 for inf.

INDUSTRIAL NETWORK - W. Allin c/o 9 Wood Road, Manchester 16

INT. LIBERTARIAN CENTRE/CENTRO IBERICO 83A Haverstock Hill NW3 Sats & Suns 7.30 pm. Tel. 586 2038

IRISH LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST FED. write New Earth, 112 Thomas St. Dublin 8.

SOME LONDON ANARCHISTS meet socially Sundays 7.30 p.m. at Finch's The One Tun, Goodge St. W. 1. (Don't ask at bar).

Bill Dwyer please send your address for mail.

New York: LIBERTARIAN BOOK CLUB 1974 Lectures: Thursdays at 7.30. Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Avenue (SW corner of 29 St.) Admission free. Jan 24: Julian Beck & Judith Malina "The Living Theatre Feb. 14: IWW N.Y. Branch "LIP and Workers' Control"; Feb 28: Sam Dolgoff "The Spanish Collectives"

BELFAST NINE DEFENCE COMMITTEE 88 Roslyn Road, London, N. 15

STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE is at 54 Harcombe Road London N.15